

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief Lowell M. Porter**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: February 1, 2005**

**Contact: Detective Randall Unruh 1-800-497-FUEL**

## **WSP Seeking Information Related To Recent Fuel Tax Arrests**

As a follow-up to Friday's arrests of individuals for stealing over one million gallons of fuel at the Port of Seattle, the Washington State Patrol Fuel Tax Evasion Unit is asking for anyone who may have unknowingly purchased the stolen fuel to call 1-800-497-FUEL with information.

The Fuel Tax Evasion Unit, made up of members of the Washington State Patrol and the Washington State Department of Licensing is looking for any additional information to help us further our investigation on this case. "These individuals are not considered to be suspects, rather, victims," explained Detective Randall Unruh.

The two men were arrested Friday and released. They worked for a company called General Transport, which delivers fuel to stations throughout the area. They received their fuel from a company called Kinder-Morgan.-Kinder Morgan operates a fuel depot on Harbor Island: they store fuel that comes in on barges and pipeline then sell it to distributors for retail points.

One of the men, an office manager for General Transport, used his access cards on weekends to pick up tanker trucks, access the pumping station at Kinder Morgan and take between 10,000 to 20,000 gallons of gasoline, which he would then sell. The other man helped him. It is believed the crime occurred between December 2002 and August 2004.

If you have any information, you are asked to call 1-800-497-FUEL.

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